



## United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
Washington, D.C. 20240

MAY 1 2006

Honorable Richard W. Pombo  
Chairman, Committee on Resources  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman,

I am pleased to transmit the *Bainbridge Island Japanese American Memorial Study of Alternatives and Environmental Assessment*. The completion of the study fulfills the requirements of Public Law 107-363, the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Memorial Study Act of 2002.

The study recommendation regarding the "Most Effective and Efficient Management Alternative" is Alternative C of the document, designating it as the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Memorial. The memorial site would be managed as a satellite site of the Minidoka Internment National Monument (NM), an existing National Park unit in Idaho. Authorizing legislation would be required to add this memorial site to the Minidoka Internment NM.

The memorial site is an integral component to both Minidoka Internment NM and Manzanar National Historic Site and is essential to understanding and appreciating the internment story. It is the first location where Japanese Americans were forcibly removed from their homes under the authority of Executive Order 9066. It also provides an important historical context of the lives of the Japanese Americans from Bainbridge Island before, during, and after the war.

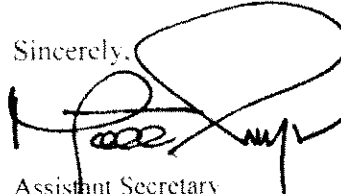
This recommendation embodies cooperative conservation by proposing a partnership among the National Park Service (NPS), City of Bainbridge Island, and the Bainbridge Island Park and Recreation District. The local entities would retain land ownership and maintenance of the memorial site, which is already located within an existing Bainbridge Island park. The NPS would manage the memorial site as a satellite site of the Minidoka Internment NM, with its primary role being to provide interpretation and education to the visitors. These cooperative efforts, therefore, would ensure the protection and interpretation of this important memorial site at minimal cost to NPS.

Honorable Richard W. Pombo

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An identical letter is being sent to the Honorable Pete V. Domenici, Chairman,  
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate.

Sincerely,



Assistant Secretary  
Fish and Wildlife and Parks

Enclosure

cc: Honorable Nick J. Rahall  
Ranking Minority Member  
Committee on Resources  
House of Representatives

Honorable Patty Murray  
United States Senate

Honorable Jay Inslee  
House of Representatives

Honorable Maria Cantwell  
United States Senate

Honorable Larry E. Craig  
United States Senate

Honorable Mike Simpson  
House of Representatives

Honorable Michael D. Crapo  
United States Senate